

REMARKS

Responsive to the Office Action dated January 18, 2006, Applicant has amended Claims 1, 5, and 9 and has canceled Claim 4. Accordingly, Claims 1-3, 5-9, and 12-22 are currently pending for prosecution with Claims 1, 9, 12 and 15 being independent.

I. Claim Objections

Claims 4, 5 and 9 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In accordance therewith, Applicant has amended Claim 1 to include the limitation of canceled Claim 4, Claim 5 now depends from Claim 1, and Claim 9 has been amended to include the limitations of original Claim 1. Applicant therefore respectfully requests withdrawal of this objection and allowance of the Claims.

II. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant appreciates the allowance of Claims 12-22.

III. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and § 103

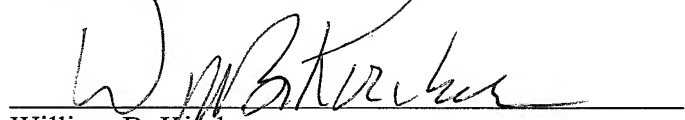
Claims 1-3 and 6-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103. In view of the Amendments to the Claims discussed above, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections.

IV. Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits the claims are now in condition for formal allowance and such is courteously solicited. If any issue regarding the allowability of any of the pending claims in the present application could be readily resolved, or if other action could be taken to further advance this application such as an Examiner's amendment, or if the Examiner should have any questions regarding the present amendment, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner please

telephone Applicant's undersigned attorney in this regard. The Examiner's attention is also drawn to the proper correspondence address shown below. Should any fees be necessitated by this response, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to deduct such fees from Deposit Account No. 11-0160.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'W B Kircher', is written over a horizontal line.

William B. Kircher

Reg. No. 22,481

Blackwell Sanders Peper Martin LLP

4801 Main Street, Suite 1000

Kansas City, Missouri 64112

(816) 983-8160 - telephone

(816) 983-8080 - facsimile

ATTORNEYS FOR APPLICANT